

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously canceled).

1 ~~2~~. (Currently amended) An isolated Interleukin-16 (IL-16) antagonist peptide ~~consisting of a sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of RRKS (SEQ ID NO:2), RRTS (SEQ ID NO:3), KRKS (SEQ ID NO:4), RRAS (SEQ ID NO:5), RRKA (SEQ ID NO:6) and RRTA (SEQ ID NO:7).

2 ~~3~~. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide ~~consisting of a sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of RRKSLQ (SEQ ID NO:17), RRTSLQ (SEQ ID NO:18), RRKSCM (SEQ ID NO:19), KRKSMQ (SEQ ID NO:20), RRASLQ (SEQ ID NO:21), RRKALQ (SEQ ID NO:22) and RRTALQ (SEQ ID NO:23).

3 ~~4~~. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide ~~consisting of a sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of RRKSLQSK (SEQ ID NO: 24), RRTSLQCK (SEQ ID NO:25), RRKSLQPK (SEQ ID NO:26), RRKSCMSK (SEQ ID NO:27), KRKSMQSK (SEQ ID NO:28), RRASLQSK (SEQ ID NO:29), RRKALQSK (SEQ ID NO:30), RRTALQCK (SEQ ID NO:31) and RRASLQCK (SEQ ID NO:32).

4 ~~5~~. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide ~~consisting of a sequence~~ selected from the group consisting of RRTSLQCKQTTASADS (SEQ ID NO:34), RRASLQSKETTAAGDS (SEQ ID NO:35), RRKALQSKETTAAGDS (SEQ ID NO:36), RRTALQCKQTTASADS (SEQ ID NO:37) and RRASLQCKQTTASADS (SEQ ID NO:38).

5 ~~6~~. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising $X_{aa0}RX_{aa1}X_{aa2}$ (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein X_{aa0} is ~~Arg or~~ Lys, and X_{aa1} and X_{aa2} are any amino acids.

7. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 6, wherein X_{aa1} is selected from Lys, Thr, or Ala; and X_{aa2} is selected from Serine or Ala.

78. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising $X_{aa0}RX_{aa1}X_{aa2}$ (SEQ ID NO:1). ~~The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 6, wherein X_{aa0} is Arg and wherein said peptide consists of fewer than 16 amino acids.~~

9. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 8, wherein X_{aa1} is selected from Lys, Thr, or Ala; and X_{aa2} is Ser or Ala.

10-12. (Currently canceled)

91. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~RRKS (SEQ ID NO:2)~~, RRTS (SEQ ID NO:3), KRKS (SEQ ID NO:4), RRAS (SEQ ID NO:5), RRKA (SEQ ID NO:6) and RRTA (SEQ ID NO:7).

14. (Previously amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising $X_{aa1}X_{aa2}X_{aa0}R$ (SEQ ID NO:8), wherein X_{aa0} is Arg or Lys, and X_{aa1} and X_{aa2} are any amino acids.

15. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 14, wherein X_{aa1} is Val and X_{aa2} is Ile or Leu.

16. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 14, wherein X_{aa0} is Arg.

17. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 16, wherein X_{aa1} is Val and X_{aa2} is Ile or Leu.

18. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 14, wherein X_{aa0} is Lys.

19. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 18, wherein X_{aa1} is Val and X_{aa2} is Leu or Ile.

20. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 16 or 18, wherein the tetrameric sequence coincides with the native sequence of a mammalian IL-16.

21. (Previously amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of VIRR (SEQ ID NO:9), VLRR (SEQ ID NO:10) and VIKR (SEQ ID NO:11).

18 22. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising $X_{aa1}X_{aa0}RX_{aa2}$ (SEQ ID NO:12), wherein X_{aa0} is Arg or Lys, and X_{aa1} and X_{aa2} are any amino acids.

23. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 22, wherein X_{aa1} is Ile or Leu and X_{aa2} is Lys, Thr or Ala.

24. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 22, wherein X_{aa0} is Arg.

25. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 24, wherein X_{aa1} is selected from Ile or Leu and X_{aa2} is Lys, Thr or Ala.

26. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 22, wherein X_{aa0} is Lys.

27. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 26, wherein X_{aa1} is selected from Leu or Ile; and X_{aa2} is Lys, Thr or Ala.

28. (Previously amended) The isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 24 or 26, wherein the tetrameric sequence coincides with the native sequence of a mammalian IL-16.

29. (Previously amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of IRRK (SEQ ID NO:13), IRRT (SEQ ID NO:14), LRRK (SEQ ID NO:15) and IKRK (SEQ ID NO:16).

26/30. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~RRKSLQ (SEQ ID NO:17)~~, RRTSLQ (SEQ ID NO:18), RRKSCM (SEQ ID NO:19), KRKSMQ (SEQ ID NO:20), RRASLQ (SEQ ID NO:21), RRKALQ (SEQ ID NO:22) and RRTALQ (SEQ ID NO:23).

4/6 27/31. (Currently amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~RRKSLQSK (SEQ ID NO:24)~~, RRTSLQCK (SEQ ID NO:25), RRKSLQPK (SEQ ID NO:26), RRKSCMSK (SEQ ID NO:27), KRKSMQSK (SEQ ID NO:28), RRASLQSK (SEQ ID NO:29), RRKALQSK (SEQ ID NO:30), RRTALQCK (SEQ ID NO:31) and RRASLQCK (SEQ ID NO:32).

32. (Previously amended) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of RRTSLQCKQTTASADS (SEQ ID NO:34), RRASLQSKETTAAGDS (SEQ ID NO:35), RRKALQSKETTAAGDS (SEQ ID NO:36), RRTALQCKQTTASADS (SEQ ID NO:37) and RRASLQCKQTTASADS (SEQ ID NO:38).

4/6 31/33. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for the isolated peptide according to any one of Claims ~~1-4, 6, 8, 14, or 22 or 34~~ ^{5-3, 5, 7, 10, 18, 30}.

34. (Previously canceled)

1/7 32/35. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the isolated peptide of any of Claims ~~1-4, 6, 8, 14, or 22 or 34~~ ^{5-3, 5, 7, 10, 18, 30} and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

36-42. (Previously canceled)

43. (Previously added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated peptide of SEQ ID NO: 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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44. (New) An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of RRKS (SEQ ID NO:2), RRKSLQ (SEQ ID NO:17), and RRKSLQSK (SEQ ID NO:24), wherein said peptide consists of fewer than 16 amino acids.
